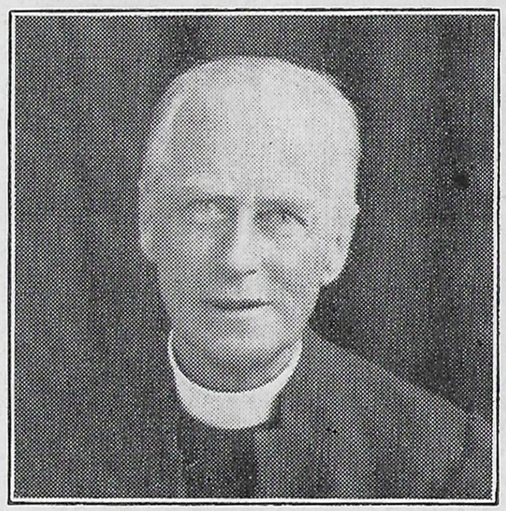
Retreat Association Mass Meeting



DEAN E. L. HENDERSON

THE Diocese of Pennsylvania has been chosen to make the start and set the pace for a series of meetings planned for other centers throughout the country. Bishop Taitt has given his cordial approval. Pennsylvania has led the way before, let us lead again. In this distracted world we sorely need straight thinking and renewal. The project to be set forth at this meeting offers a way, simple, tried, practical, that goes to the root of Christian life.

The Forward Movement, inaugurated by the last General Convention is known to all of us and has profoundly affected many. Its foundation is daily touch with God that we may know and do His will as true disciples. The Retreat Movement is an important complement of the Forward Movement, and is urged in its publications and correspondence.

The Very Reverend Edward Lowry Henderson, D.D., Dean of St. Albans Abbey Church, the Cathedral of the Diocese of St. Albans, England, will be the principal speaker. We are very fortunate in having him. He is one of the most experienced leaders of the Retreat Movement in England and a speaker of exceptional ability. His Bishop, the Right Reverend Michael Furse, nominated and persuaded him to come to America to help us in the Retreat Movement. He is holding conferences in the training of retreat conductors and the teaching ministry at the College of Preachers in Washington and elsewhere this autumn. Bishop Furse knows our Church in the United States well and was the chief guest and preacher at the Denver General Convention in 1930.

Dr. William Codman Sturgis, who will make the other address of the meeting, is well known to most of us. He has long been regarded as one of our American Church's foremost laymen and spiritual leaders. Formerly on the faculties of Yale and Colorado College, former national Church official, member of American and English Scientific societies, orator of note, he is beloved by large numbers in all sections of the Church who have been helped by his conferences for laymen and laywomen. He has now taken charge of the new Retreat House of the Diocese of New Jersey at Bernardsville.

In England the Retreat Movement has been growing rapidly since the War. There thousands of clergy, laymen, laywomen and young people of all types of churchmanship have learned the value of annual retreats. To quote from a recent Review.

> "All through England the Church is beginning to recover this old old truth. Here and there are being opened Houses of Retreat (sixty-two by last report) where groups of people may go for a short time into seclusion and stillness. They go not so much to learn new things, but just that the old things of their faith may become once more strong and vivid ideas. People who thought they could not find God are realizing that it was because they sought after Him wrongly that they missed Him."

Our Retreat Association in America, at whose request this Mass Meeting is held, has been fostered for the past two years by the College of Preachers, Washington, D. C. It is headed by men known for their devotion and representing various types of Churchmanship. The Retreat Movement has just now suffered irreparable loss by the death of two of its most saintly leaders, Father Huntington, O.H.C., universally known and loved, who was one of the founders and first vice president of the Association; and Bishop Booth of Vermont, only a few years ago of our own Diocese, who was to have presided at this Mass Meeting. The officers and Advisory Committee of the Retreat Association are: the Rt. Rev. Philip M. Rhinelander, LL.D., President; the Rev. Spence Burton, S.S.J.E., Second Vice President; the Rev. Malcolm S. Taylor, Executive Secretary; the Very Rev. S. Whitney Hale (Dean of S. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo), the Rev. Messrs. Henry E. Batcheller (Charlottesville, Virginia), Howard A. Brinker (S. Bartholomew's, Chicago), H. Irving Louttit (Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach, Florida), S. Thorne Sparkman (Christ Church, Baltimore) who this month conducted our Diocesan clergy retreat. Secretaries in twenty-five dioceses have been appointed.

The object of the Association is to promote Retreats, and also Schools of Prayer, Conferences on Christian Living, and Days of Devotion. The eastern dioceses which have been especially active in holding retreats are Virginia, Upper South Carolina, Maryland, New Jersey, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

In Pennsylvania we have just held a very helpful three-day Retreat for the Diocesan clergy. Three Retreats for laymen and a School of Prayer are to be held the last three week-ends of October and the first of November.

You are earnestly invited to be present at this all-important Mass Meeting for your own sake, for the honor of the Diocese, and for the good of the whole Church.

COME YOURSELF AND BRING OTHERS

Commission on Evangelism

The Very Rev. C. E. Eder
The Rev. H. W. Fulweiler
The Rev. H. R. Weir
The Rev. L. C. Lewis, Ph.D.
Mr. L. C. Palmer
Mr. G. H. Randall

The REV. J. R. SHRYOCK, Ph.D., *Chairman*

The REV. THOMAS BURGESS, D.D., All Hallows Church, Wyncote, Pa.
Diocesan Secretary, Retreat Association

What is a Retreat?

TAKING time out for God. That is a retreat. To go into a quiet place, away from distractions and there to face God, ourselves and our responsibilities as Christians. The rest of the world has ridiculed us Americans for our rapid pace. Now that we have gone stale, here is a cure, old and tried since the spiritual life of man began, and practiced in all the great religions, a simple way of renewal.

In these confused times we need to get down to foundations, to treat the causes not merely the symptoms, to uncover the sources of motive and power which blatant activity or superficial organization can never attain. Life is moved not by machinery but by ideas. In religion we must cease to copy the methods of the world. Get God and His Kingdom into the hearts of our people, and life will straighten out. Our Church, awakened, is moving forward to just this.

When Moses was called to liberate God's people, his first step was not to form an Exodus Committee with an influential chairman and businesslike secretary, who should keep minutes and send resolutions to Pharaoh. His first step was to go out into the desert, to the Mount of God, that in stillness and seclusion the vision of God's purpose might be made plain. So Elijah at the cave's mouth heard the still small voice. St. Paul retired to Arabia, S. John to Patmos and the greatest of God's men and women in every age have done the same.

Our Lord began his active work with a forty days retreat. Throughout his busy ministry he was regularly taking time out for communion with the Father and the foundation of his disciples' training was to come apart into a desert place to rest awhile with Him. If we would follow our Lord's example, how can we neglect taking time out for God?

A retreat is not formal, nor forced, nor striped with any particular band of churchmanship, nor is it a series of preachments or conferences. All that is needed for a man or woman to make a retreat is the desire and will to take time out, *enough time*; a secluded and comfortable place with an Altar as its center; and, if needed, help from a devout leader to guide our time and suggest our meditations. To win the people and to promote these opportunities are the objectives of the Retreat Association and of this Mass Meeting.

You are invited to attend

The First Retreat Association Mass Meeting in America

in the interests of

THE RETREAT MOVEMENT

in the Episcopal Church

at

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia

Wednesday, October 9th, 1935

8.00 P.M.

Presiding

HON. BENJAMIN H. LUDLOW
of Philadelphia

SPEAKERS:

THE VERY REV. EDWARD LOWRY HENDERSON, D.D.
Dean of St. Albans, England

WILLIAM CODMAN STURGIS, Ph.D.
of Bernardsville, New Jersey

Under the Auspices of the
DIOCESAN COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM